(iii) Instructions also exist for allotment of lower berths falling vacant in the train due to non-turning up of passengers to senior citizens by Train Conductor/TTE on first come first served basis.

(iv) Separate accommodation has been earmarked for senior citizens in suburban sections of Central and Western Railways.

(b) and (c) The passenger reservation system, on cancellation of reservation, automatically allocates the released accommodation to the next passenger in the RAC/waiting list, without any preference to any category.

New pension scheme in railways

5224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenses on pension and salaries of Railway employees during the last three years; category-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Indian Railway proposes to join the new pension scheme;

(c) if so, what are the details of the new pension scheme and how this will benefit the Railways and its current and former employees; and

(d) what is the reaction of the employees to the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) The total expenses on pension and salaries of Railway's employees during the last three years; category-wise and year- wise are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Category	Year	Salary	Pension	Total
Group 'A' and 'B'	1999-00	313.21	98.55	411.76
	2000-01	337.56	146.03	483.59
	2001-02	341.68	148.34	490.02
Group 'C'	1999-00	8614.04	1771.92	10385.96
	2000-01	9343.4	2762.79	12106.19
	2001-02	9429.7	2905.87	12335.57
Group'D'	1999-00	3730.89	857.27	4588.16
	2000-01	3892.21	1181.81	5074.02
	2001-02	3818.19	1122.14	4940.33

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways would join a new Pension Scheme for Railway employees if a final decision is taken by the Government of India to introduce a new Pension Scheme for all Central Government employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any new scheme of Railway employees would also be based on the new Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Government employees.

(d) The reaction of the employees will be known only after the details of the scheme are notified by the Department of Pension and Pensioners's Welfare.

Infrastructure for enhancing the speed of trains

5225. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to break its current speed barrier and touch the 150 km. per hour limit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all infrastructure arrangements for ensuring smooth railway journeys at such speed have been adequately addressed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the trains which have been selected to run initially on the revised speed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is planned to run one train on Konkan Railway at a maximum speed of 150 kmph. surpassing the present barrier of 130 kmph.

(c) Trial run has already been conducted satisfactorily. Before permitting the train at 150 kmph, all the infrastructure arrangement for ensuring smooth Railway journey at such speed will be ensured.

(d) Yet to be decided.